

was comparatively isolated, when there were no telegraphs, and when newspapers were neither numerous nor widely circulated, the mischief arising from such violations of official reticence may have been less apparent; but now that every statement, however inaccurate or incomplete, which has any bearing upon pending questions of policy or administration, is reported from one end of India to the other, and from India to Europe in the course of a few hours, the case is very different, and the embarrassment thus caused to the Government becomes at times a matter of very serious moment.

2. It must be clearly understood that no officer of Government, not specially authorized in that behalf, is at liberty to communicate to the press, either directly or indirectly, information of which he may become possessed in the course of his official duty. A similar professional reticence should be exercised by all officers of Government in their private and unofficial intercourse with non-official persons, and even with officers of Government belonging to other Departments. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General does not for a moment intend to debar officers of Government in private life from the same freedom in the discussion of public events which is enjoyed by all Her Majesty's subjects; but when an officer has in the course of his duty become possessed of special information not yet made public, he should always be strictly on his guard against the temptation of divulging it, even to other servants of Government, when these are not officially entitled to his confidence. Irresponsible persons hearing facts of interest mentioned without reserve in the course of general conversation can scarcely be expected to refrain from repeating them to others, and thus giving them a premature and too often a garbled currency.

3. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General feels sure that he has only to invite the attention of the officers of Government to the importance of this matter to secure their earnest co-operation in putting a stop to such casual and unpremeditated breaches of official confidence. Officers of Government are bound to be as reserved in respect to all matters that may come within their cognizance during the discharge of their public duties as lawyers, bankers, or other professional men in regard to the affairs of their clients.

4. For the due communication to the press of such information as may unobjectionably be given to it, departmental arrangements must be made under proper authority.

No. 3325.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

-Bombay Castle, 10th May 1898.

CIRCULAR.

Instances are frequent in which erroneous or distorted versions of matters engaging public attention or relating to the acts of Government and its officers appear in the columns of the public press. This result, which is apparently due to the hasty publication of statements of fact before they are verified, is not infrequently attributed by Editors to the impossibility of obtaining accurate and reliable information. Under the standing orders of the Government of India, published with Government Resolution in the General Department No. 3193, dated the 4th September 1884, the communication to the press of matters which may be made public without inconvenience is not forbidden, but is left to the careful discretion of officers. His Excellency in Council desires that the freest communication compatible with these orders should be encouraged between the higher Government officers and Editors of respectable newspapers. District Magistrates should understand that they are authorized at their discretion (1) to communicate to Editors of local papers correct facts of occurrences which excite local interest whenever they deem it necessary in the public interests to do so, and (2) to accede to requests by local Editors for information

as to facts in cases where this can in their opinion be done without compromising public interests; and convenient opportunity should be taken of informing local Editors that they are at liberty to apply to the District Magistrate for information in verification of reports which they propose to publish.

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No. 3724.

• GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 8th November 1881.

RESOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that from and after December 1st, 1881, Madras time shall be kept in all offices under the control of Government and shall be held to be the official time for all purposes.

2. His Excellency in Council invites the public to extend the uniformity which this order is designed to secure in public offices by adopting Madras time for general use.

Official time : Keeping of local time in all Government Offices in Bombay and at Aden.

No. 1820.

• GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 29th May 1883.

Letter from the Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, dated 16th May 1883 :—

“ With reference to the letter No. 239 of the 18th October 1881, addressed by the Chamber of Commerce to Government in the General Department, in which the Chamber expressed its opinion as to the proposal that Madras time should be kept in Bombay as the official time for all purposes, I am directed to state that it has been found after fully a year's trial that the keeping of Madras time in the City of Bombay is not acceptable to the community, and that the different times which are now kept give rise to much irritating inconvenience. The Committee, therefore, respectfully desire to suggest that His Excellency the Governor in Council will in these circumstances be so good as to give orders that Bombay time be reverted to in the Government offices of the Presidency town.

“ The Committee, while making this suggestion, desire to express their acknowledgments of the good intentions which prompted His Excellency for the general convenience to introduce Madras time into Bombay.”

RESOLUTION.—The Chamber of Commerce should be informed that in directing that from December 1st, 1881, Madras or Indian mean time should be kept in all offices under the control of Government and should be held to be the official time for all purposes, the object which the Governor in Council had in view was to obviate the inconvenience arising from the keeping of two times, the local and the Indian mean time. In the United Kingdom Greenwich time has for many years been universally adopted, and it was hoped that in the same way Madras time might in this Presidency be generally followed. The Governor in Council trusted that by consulting the Chamber of Commerce, who reported in favour of the principle, he had secured the concurrence of the mercantile community of Bombay. As, however, it is now clear that the public of Bombay are not prepared to follow the example of Government in the matter of the adoption of Indian mean time and prefer to adhere to the local time, the Governor in Council feels that he will be consulting the public convenience by reverting to local time in the City and Island of Bombay, and orders will accordingly be issued to the effect that from the 1st proximo local

time shall be kept in all offices under the control of Government in the City and Island of Bombay and shall be there held to be the official time for all purposes.

2. Outside the City and Island of Bombay the adoption, generally throughout the Presidency, of Indian mean time has given satisfaction, and that time should consequently continue to be regarded as official time everywhere in the Presidency, except in Bombay and Aden.

3. Intimation of the orders now passed should be given to the Judicial Department for communication to the Honourable the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court; to the Ecclesiastical Department for communication to the Lord Bishop; to the other Departments of the Secretariat; and to the Postmaster-General and the Superintendent of Telegraphs.

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CIRCULAR.

No. 394 of 1843.

TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT (REVENUE).

SIR,

The practice of borrowing money from, or on the security of, subordinate servants, being considered highly improper, the Honourable the Governor in Council is pleased to prohibit it in all branches of the public service, and to declare that any person who may in future transgress the rule now laid down will subject himself to the penalty of dismissal from office.

2. You will be pleased to make this order known to all persons serving on your establishment.

Bombay Castle, 4th February 1843.

Ordered that a copy of this foregoing Circular be transferred to the several Departments of the Secretariat, that it may be issued to the Heads of Offices and Departments under their respective control.

(Signed) L. R. REID,
Chief Secretary.

CIRCULAR.

No. 956 of 1844.

TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT (REVENUE).

To

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER,

Northern Division.

SIR,

Several instances have recently come to the knowledge of Government of officers, filling civil appointments in the districts subordinate to this Presidency, having borrowed money from Natives residing within their official jurisdiction, and as no practice can be more injurious than this to the public interests, and to the character of Government and of its servants, the Honourable the Governor in Council has resolved positively to prohibit under the severest penalties any future transactions of this nature.